

# ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1876.

As election tickets have been printed with the intention of deceiving the Conservatives, every member of that party should thoroughly inspect the ticket he intends voting before depositing it in the ballot box to-morrow.

Let every Conservative, for this time at least, forget personal animosity, and vote the straight ticket. If there be any real cause for differences in the party, it can be removed hereafter by party action.

To-MORROW.—"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more!" though an old, is not an inappropriate battle cry for the hour which is upon us. Again and again have the black cohorts of Radicalism surged upon us, and again and again have they been thrown back from our serried phalanx, broken and in confusion. We had fondly hoped that a final rout had been given them, and that never more would they dare to face us upon the field; but we had overlooked the fact that in the midst of our own host there were those to whom principles were as nothing in comparison with office, and whose self-conceit and inordinate vanity were continually whispering that it was "better to rule in hell than serve in Heaven."

It is against these men that, to-morrow, we must fight, once more, the battle of constitutional liberty. It may seem bombastic to dignify by such a name, a mere municipal election, but when it is remembered that it is the preliminary skirmish of the great presidential contest, our words will not appear ill chosen. Up to the result of that presidential contest depends our dearest rights. If we are successful in it, there will be no more sale of office, no more nepotism, or Cretanism. No more will the black man be the sole object of Congressional predilection, or civil rights bills strive to force him into our social assemblies, or his children into our schools; no more will the footprint of a hireling soldiery pollute our soil, or the gleam of bayonets overawe our legislatures; no more will partisan juries hurry off innocent men to distant prisons, or military tribunals "organized to convict," revel in blood; peace will spread her broad wings over our land, and every man, white or black, "will lie down under his own vine and fig tree with no one to make him afraid."

It is as well that the mask has been thrown off now; for when the victorious hosts of Democracy gather to celebrate the regeneration of our land; when the banner of the constitution floats, once more, in triumph; and the glad shouts of rejoicing myriads, like the thunders of heaven, strike terror into the hearts of our would-be oppressors; then no discordant notes will be wafted upon the gale, but the men who desert, as now, in the day of battle, will be driven back "with scorn and loathing into the company they have sought, and for which they are best suited, and their hypocritical professions of repentance and piteous cries for the crumbs of office, will be, alike, unheeded. Let, then; every true Conservative gird up his loins for the fight; let him rejoice that the men who, for years, have distracted our councils with their petty malice and self-seeking "patriotism," are no longer in our camp, but have gone over to the enemy to disturb him as they have disturbed us; and let him give the day to his country, routing his neighbor to the importance of the occasion and combating the sophism by which the weak have been misled; and when the day shall have closed, victory will have perched upon our banners, and we shall have earned the right to be congratulated by our brethren throughout the land.

Passengers who arrived at Havana yesterday from Vera Cruz report that for four days before the steamer sailed no railway train and no correspondence of any kind had been received from the Capital, all communications being interrupted. The rebellion seemed to be assuming alarming proportions. It was reported that the President of the Supreme Court had gone to the United States, and that President Lerdo was preparing for the sale of his property in case of disaster. Those reports appear to be exaggerated, but the gravity of the situation in the southern portion of the country cannot be doubted.

We are informed, and our knowledge of the high character of the gentlemen alluded, leads us to credit the information, that a majority of the respectable portion of the Radical party of the city, those who are Republicans in principle, and who have some interest in the honor and welfare of the community in which they reside, will not lend themselves to the present attempt of disappointed bolters from the Conservative party to foist themselves into office by the aid of negro votes.

At a public meeting in Richmond last Monday night, Mr. Cabell made a speech in which he said, alluding to the Independent movement, which the Radicals, with the assistance of a few persons who have heretofore been half way Conservatives, have commenced in all the cities of the State, "he saw in this so-called people's movement the Radical serpent in disguise, and he warned his hearers to beware of it. As a defeated candidate himself he appealed to them to be true to their party."

The House of Representatives, yesterday, passed the Naval Appropriation bill, after striking out the provisions for the reduction of the pay of naval officers, for the reorganization of the Marine Corps and the abolition of certain navy yards.

The grand celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday commenced at Petersburg, in this State, last night with an enthusiastic welcome meeting. Addresses by the Mayor, prominent citizens and clergy, and responses by British settlers, were delivered. The banquet to-day will be on a magnificent scale. A congratulatory cable telegram was sent to Lord Derby for presentation to Queen Victoria. British flags are flying, and there is general enthusiasm.

Most of the Conservatives placed upon the Council tickets by the Radicals of Petersburg have published cards announcing that their names were put there without their knowledge, and refusing to serve if elected.

There was a large attendance at the Centennial Exhibition yesterday. On Monday there were 12,396 paying visitors.

## CITY COUNCIL.

A regular semi-monthly meeting of the City Council was held last night.

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

This Board met at 8:20 o'clock. Mr. McKee offered a resolution to abolish the office of Harbor Master, and recited the circumstances under which the election of that officer had been dispensed with for several years past.

Mr. Moore understood from Capt. Lowe that the fees had been abolished, except where services were rendered.

Mr. McKee thought not. Every encouragement should be given to the coal trade, which it was claimed was injured by harbor fees, and he thought abolishing the office the best way to get rid of the trouble about fees.

Mr. Moore asked if the Superintendent of Police did not act in the absence of any Harbor Master?

Mr. McKee said yes. He did not care to press the matter, but preferred action before the officer was elected.

After some further debate the bill was laid over.

Mr. Neale offered a resolution to allow judges and clerks of election, on Thursday, five dollars each.

Mr. McKee thought three dollars enough. Mr. Neale favored the original resolution, and recited the amount of work done at the primary election.

Mr. Moore thought there could be plenty of men gotten at three dollars, and the work could be done in one day. He moved to fix the pay at \$3. Lost—ayes, 2; noes, 4.

The pay was then fixed at \$4, and the resolution adopted.

The Board then, at 8:50 o'clock, adjourned.

### COMMON COUNCIL.

The interest in the meeting of the Common Council last night continued unabated, the session lasting until midnight and the outside of the bar and a portion of the floor being crowded by spectators.

Mr. Beckham took the chair shortly after 8 o'clock and called the meeting to order, and read a letter from D. L. Smoot saying that he would not be present, and asking a postponement of the resolution in regard to the Presidency of the Board.

The Chair said that other business might be taken up.

Mr. Latham said that he did not agree, for he was satisfied that the Board could do no business until it had a president properly elected.

It was moved then to proceed with the discussion of the "pending resolution" declaring Mr. Latham the president.

The Chair said that the Board could not proceed to discuss the resolution now. Mr. Smoot had the floor on that question, and debate could not proceed unless Mr. Smoot was here, and he would have first to be sent for.

Mr. McKee moved that the resolution be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Latham said that he did not agree with the Chair, for in that case the Council would be at the mercy of Mr. Smoot. He had consulted with many gentlemen both here and in Washington, and all, without exception, declared that six votes out of eleven would suffice to elect the President of the Board. This Board itself had so determined. In 1872 Mr. Shinn received eight votes for President and Mr. Hopkins 2, and Mr. Shinn was declared elected.

The Chair said that courtesy required that the discussion should not proceed in the absence of Mr. Smoot.

Mr. Evans said that until this question was settled the Board could do nothing. He therefore offered the following:

Resolved, That the office of President be declared vacant.

Mr. McKee doubted if Council had the power to remove an officer without charges.

Mr. Evans read the latter portion of the 8th section of the charter, as follows:

"All officers elected by the City Council may be removed from office at its pleasure. Each board may remove all officers elected by such board."

Mr. McKee ruled that the charter referred to officers on side—such as the Clerk of the gas. It did not refer to the president of the Board.

Mr. Hopkins said that section of the charter was repealed.

Mr. Broders defended his rulings at the former meeting, and said he did not see the use of all this trouble to be president for one month.

Mr. Harlow saw no necessity for a postponement.

The Chair (Mr. Beckham)—Thought that courtesy would require that Mr. Smoot should be first heard.

Mr. Latham opposed a postponement.

Mr. Smith moved that Mr. Smoot be notified that Council will now proceed to discuss the question.

Mr. Evans said that Mr. Smoot had been notified already of this meeting by a messenger. He saw no need of another notice.

Mr. Smith's resolution was agreed to, and Mr. Hopkins suggested that Mr. Smith convey the notice to Mr. Smoot, as he could explain its purpose.

The Chair said he would write a note to Mr. Smoot, which he did, and the messenger was dispatched with it.

In the meantime Mr. Latham discussed the 231 rule of Council, but the Chair thought he was discussing the pending case, and he took his seat.

Mr. Smoot finally appeared and the resolution declaring Mr. Smoot elected with the substitute of Mr. Harlow declaring Mr. Latham elected were taken up.

Mr. Smoot had hoped that the time for this discussion would have been postponed, and as he was now busy in settling up his affairs in the Circuit Court, he asked as a personal favor that the matter be postponed and the Council proceed to other business.

Mr. Latham said he emphatically declared that no President had been chosen.

Mr. Evans again offered his resolution declaring the office of President vacant.

The Chair (Mr. Beckham) ruled the resolution out of order.

Mr. Evans appealed.

The ruling of the chair was sustained—ayes, 6; noes, 5.

Mr. Hopkins withdrew his resolution offered at the last meeting, leaving only before the board Mr. Harlow's resolution declaring that Mr. Latham had been elected President of the board.

Mr. Smoot addressed the Council in support of his view. It was admitted that nine votes would be required to adopt "any law, order or resolution." Now a vote for President could

not be taken unless nine members voted therefor; and it would be strange indeed if it required nine to vote that an election be gone into, and then that less than nine votes could elect. Mr. Smoot detailed the action of the board on the night of the election. He contended that the work of election was finished two weeks ago, and no appeal was taken. It was now too late to make a change. "There is only one tribunal to the land that can settle this election and that is the judiciary. If any one else has a claim greater than mine the courts can settle his suit." Mr. S. continued his argument at length occupying the attention for nearly an hour.

Mr. Latham did not know which to sympathize with the most, the erring memory or the unstable position of Mr. Smoot. He, too, discussed the question at length. He said: As to carrying to question to the courts, when there were only two more meetings, it was absurd, especially coming from the gentleman. He pleaded his own case and I'll have to employ counsel.

Mr. Smoot, in reply, urged that, while at the opening of the Board, the charter alone being the rule, less than nine might elect a President, yet, after rule 231 was adopted, it needed a majority of the whole number to elect. He spoke of the conduct of Mr. Latham in former days, when, "with the royal purple of the Majority flowing down to his feet," he claimed the power to prorogue the Council and remove the Councilmen from office.

Mr. Latham explained that the Constitution gave the Mayor the power to remove all officers, and Councilmen were officers, but he had told Mr. Smoot it was a power he (Mr. Latham) would not dare to exercise. Was that the bloody tyrant (a curious noise was then made outside the bar) that the gentleman had depicted.

Mr. Smoot then introduced a resolution, as a substitute, declaring that D. L. Smoot had been chosen a disqualified as President, and the Board was incompetent to decide upon his right to the office.

On this vote stood yeas 6, nays 6, and the Chair declared it was rejected.

The question then recurred on Mr. Harlow's resolution declaring Mr. Latham to have been elected President on Tuesday night, and the vote stood yeas 5, nays 7.

The Chair then read the resolution, and that the rejection of this resolution left Mr. Smoot as the declared President of the Board.

Mr. Latham reintroduced the resolution of Mr. Hopkins, declaring Mr. Smoot to have been elected President.

The Chairman decided that the rejection of the resolution of Mr. Harlow carried with it the declaration that Mr. Smoot was elected President.

Mr. Hopkins appealed.

Mr. Evans moved to adjourn.

The Chair decided that pending an appeal from the decision of the Chair a motion to adjourn was not in order.

The vote being taken on the appeal of Mr. Hopkins it stood yeas 7, noes 4.

The vote was then taken on the resolution of Mr. Latham, declaring Mr. Smoot President, and the vote stood yeas 8, nays 3.

The Chair ruled that it required nine votes to pass the resolution, and that the effect of the vote was to declare Mr. Smoot not elected.

Mr. Smoot appealed.

The Chair was sustained—yeas 7, nays 5.

Mr. Hopkins announced his intention to offer a resolution requesting both contestants to resign.

Mr. Latham said he was out of the question; the vote of the Council had decided his case.

Mr. Smoot (to the Chair)—Just write my resignation and consider it signed. (Scarcely.)

Some question occurred at this point as to whether Mr. Latham had made any reservation of the rights claimed by him and Mr. Smoot declared that his withdrawal was based on that of Mr. Latham.

Mr. Latham—You have disposed of me and I shall not contest it, but I will not submit myself.

It was now 11 o'clock, but a new election was ordered.

Mr. Harlow nominated D. L. Latham and Mr. McKee nominated Mr. Smoot. Mr. Beckham also named Mr. Smoot. Mr. Beckham was also named in nomination.

The Chair in advance ruled it required nine votes to elect.

Mr. Hopkins appealed from the decision of the Chair, but the Chair was sustained—Yeas, 7; nays, 4.

Mr. Smoot withdrew, leaving Messrs. Latham and Beckham as the candidates.

Mr. Beckham left the chair.

The Clerk took the chair.

Mr. Evans retired, saying, I have to go up the road on the train to-night, and it won't wait for me.

The balloting proceeded:

First ballot: Beckham, 7; Latham, 5.

Second ballot: Beckham, 7; Latham, 5.

Third ballot: Beckham, 7; Latham, 5.

Mr. Latham declared but was renominated by Mr. Harlow.

Fourth ballot: Beckham, 8; Latham, 3.

Fifth ballot: Beckham, 7; Latham, 3; John Campbell, 1. [Laughter.]

And pending the ballot, at midnight the Board adjourned until Monday evening next.

## A DRUNKARD'S DEATH BY SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

An inhabitant at Fontenay-sur-Bois, one of the most charming little suburbs of Paris, has recently departed this life under circumstances which merit the attention of everybody, but more particularly of the scientific and medical world. The man in question had been a confirmed drunkard, and subsisted, on an average, a quart and half of brandy per diem. Conscious of the degradation of his besting vice, he kept aloof from his family, and at times shut himself up in his room for days together in order to pursue his devotion to Bacchus unmolested by the reproach or remonstrance of the infidel. He had frequently been forced to abandon the brandy bottle for the approach of delirium tremens, but he was never cured by the doctors than he returned to his favorite lore. At length he was seized with an irresistible desire to destroy himself, which the medical sciences call the "nostalgia" of alcohol. On Easter Sunday, he shut himself up again; but, remaining secluded longer than usual, the neighbors broke open his door. An overpowering smell of spirits struck them on entering the room, where the remains of a charcoal fire were found, and on looking on the bed, there lay the body of the man reduced toinders! This declares that spontaneous combustion must have taken place shortly after the drunkard lay down to die.

A WARNING TO BATHERS.—It has long been known that it was injurious for anyone to go into the water to bathe just after eating a full meal, but it is not so well known that the practice may result in death. This latter fact seems to have been demonstrated by the recent death in a bath in Bristol England, of a boy thirteen years old. He had never had a fit, and is believed to have been in perfect health. When found he was lying on his back, with his head just above the surface, and he was standing in a stooping position with his face just under the water. At the place where he was the water was only three feet four inches deep, while the boy's height was four feet one inch. The temperature of the water was seventy-six degrees. The medical testimony disclosed the fact that the deceased had eaten heartily before entering the water, or at least he had not given his food time to digest. He had vomited a large quantity of food, and when found his mouth and throat were full. The opinion was expressed in the medical testimony, and endorsed by the verdict of the jury, that death resulted from epilepsy, brought on by the dangerous practice of entering the water immediately after eating a meal.

## Independent Radical Ward Meetings.

The Independent-Radical party held their meetings for the nomination of members of the City Council, in all of the Wards last night, except the Fourth, in which those nominations had already been made.

### FIRST WARD.

In this Ward Edward Evans presided and Thomas Dwyer was Secretary.

Allen C. Harmon was nominated for the Board of Aldermen; Geo. C. Hewes, Thomas Dwyer, Wm. Chasney and G. C. Thorpe, for the Common Council; John H. Thompson, for Magistrate, and James E. Davis for constable.

The meeting then adjourned.

### SECOND WARD.

Larkin Patton presided and Henry Lewis was Secretary.

Lewis Steen was nominated for the Board of Aldermen; F. L. Van Aken, John P. Rice, F. E. Corbett and J. S. Fowler for the Common Council; Wm. Woods, for Magistrate, and John R. Gray for constable.

A committee was appointed to attend the polls to-morrow, consisting of J. Piper, R. B. Clarke, Larkin Lightfoot, Levi Potter and J. Washington.

The meeting then adjourned.

### THIRD WARD.

A small crowd of various complexions assembled at the old Court House last night, and the dim lamps shed a ghastly light over the dusky assemblage.

J. McK. Ware, colored, chairman of the Ward, called the meeting to order and directed A. B. Crupper to read the call, which was for a people's meeting.

The Club officers were made the permanent officers of the meeting, and it was declared in order to nominate a candidate for the Board of Aldermen.

R. P. W. Garnett nominated Robt. Porter. Some one queried whether it would not be better to endorse Mr. Porter.

R. D. Beckley desired to know if Mr. Porter was not the Conservative nominee.

Garnett stated that he had it from reliable sources that Mr. Porter would not act with the people, "he will go with us, and act with us, he is of us and for us."

Beckley had nothing to say against Mr. Porter, he only urged that the best men be placed in nomination, but was inclined to think that short of other good men in the Ward besides Mr. Porter, and therefore moved to table the resolution endorsing him.

A discussion arose on this subject between Garnett and Beckley, the former contending that Porter would act with the Independents. The latter desired to know if it was Mr. Porter's desire to play "Oh, Good Lord, oh, good devil," and on being interrogated by Garnett as to his meaning, wished to know if Mr. Porter was playing a double game and whether he desired to be pig to one and puppy to the other.

Garnett wanted justice to rule if the heavens fell. He hoped Beckley had not come into the meeting as a fire brand. This movement had been inaugurated to strike the party that was in power and had so misused it. It was a people's party, of and from the people. It was intended to break down cliques and rings. He wished to know if the city should be ruled by cliques or by the people?

A voice—"White ally him."

Beckley was no fire brand; he was an American citizen, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and of this ward, and as such had a right to express himself.

Mr. Garnett here put in a word, as also did several others.

The Chair pressed for order, and some one requested "Joe Humphreys to come to order," in spite of which Beckley maintained his right to the floor by continuing to speak as if nothing was going on.

Some one desired to inform the meeting that Mr. Porter was nominated by the Conservatives.

The Chair said he would state the object of the meeting, and proceeded to say: This meeting is supposed to be—

C. O. Sipple, interrupting, "a people's meeting."

The Chair desired Mr. Sipple to understand that he was capable of stating the object of the meeting, which he proceeded to do, and then the motions before it.

The vote to table the motion to endorse Mr. Porter was carried by a vote of 13 to 8.

Garnett—"Well, Beckley killed him."

Beckley and Dwyer both on the floor and both desired to make nominations.

The Chair recognized Douglass, who nominated John T. Armstrong.

Sipple desired a committee of select candidates.

Beckley began to make a nominating speech. Sipple (to voice)—Beckley, "Let's have a committee."

Beckley did not agree with Sipple, and proceeded to nominate James M. Stewart.

The Chair was overwhelmed with gratuitous advice.

Tellers were appointed and Armstrong received 14 and Stewart 12.

When Armstrong's name was called Garnett urged the Chair to enthusiastically make it John T. and "not R. C. for God's sake!"

Armstrong was declared the nominee.

A voice—"Yes nominated, but not given to be elected."

The Chair—"No indeed."

R. D. Beckley, (colored,) Josiah Ford, John R. Lambdin, Michael Smith, Jas. Dugan, Jas. M. Stewart and Robert W. Braddock, (colored,) were nominated for Council.

Beckley desired, because he did not wish to weaken their ticket, which would be done by placing colored men on it. The Conservatives and Republicans had united to bring out a good ticket for the general good. He had heard that white men were going to vote for the white ticket, and he wanted to see if he could get some of them on the ticket and scratch the colored ticket.

He preferred to stay off rather than weaken the ticket. He believed the colored men intended to do their duty and perform their part of the contract, and he would not think any white man whose heart was in the work would be guilty of so mean a thing as trying to play so foul a game; if they did intend that, they had better go back where they came from. "Think of it, if you go to Washington and get into a scrape, you will be hauled up by a colored policeman, but here we can't all ourselves to cast a vote for a colored policeman. The colored people were going into the arrangement with heart and soul and proposing doing the fair thing. (A voice—That's so.) Let it be so with the whites—but don't put me on the ticket. Nominate men who will strengthen it."

Jones, (colored,) differed with Beckley. He thought the "Independents" were going to do their duty and the colored to scratch with.

He had heard many colored folk say "they was gwine to take their pencil to do polls to scratch with."

He was more afraid of the colored than of the white voters.

A voice—"Use more frat of you."

Jones—Duncan declined.

Garnett wished to know if Mr. Stewart would serve?

Beckley had not seen him, but was sure he would.

The Chair doubted it.

Edward Quinn and Randolph Thompson were nominated, but declined.

Chas. McKins was nominated, but it was stated that he positively declined.

Mike Smith was nominated.

The ballot was closed and the vote stood: Smith, 29; Josiah Ford, 31; John Lambdin, 32; Jas. M. Stewart, 42; Robert Braddock, colored, 19.

The Chair said Mr. Lambdin was a man in whom he had "unshaken" confidence.

There was some confusion, and the Chair said, when he attended Sabbath school years

before the war, the superintendent had said, if all talked and none listened, no one would hear what was going on.

It was announced that J. M. Stewart, John Lambdin, Josiah Ford, and Mike Smith were nominated for Council.

Walter L. Penn was then nominated by acclamation for Magistrate.

The office of Constable was next in order. Harrison D. Ayton, colored, was nominated. Several others were nominated.

The Chair stated that as this officer had to give a bond of \$1,000, he hoped no one would allow his name to be used, who was unable to furnish the bond and thus bring discredit upon the party; and he would entertain the nomination of no one who was unable to comply with this law.

A voice—"Oh, there's no money in that."

Several found it impossible to accept the office, having other and more important duties.

Some one said there was no one in nomination.

Drayton said he had been nominated.

The Chair dub